

Mid-Atlantic Hydric Soils Committee Meeting
Wednesday, June 27 & Thursday, June 28, 2001
Niagara Falls, NY

A. Introduction

Present: Leander Brown (NRCS, MD), Kevin Bilash (EPA, PA), Casey Broxson (EPA, PA), Steve Carlisle (NRCS, NY), John Galbraith (VA Tech, VA), Jim Gregory (NC State U), Harold Jones, Amanda Muir (EPA, PA), Martin Rabenhorst & Phil (U. of MD, MD), Carl Robinette (NRCS, MD), Ralph Spagnolo (EPA, PA), Ron Taylor (NRCS, NJ), Maryann Thiesing (EPA, NY), Lenore Vasilas (NRCS, MD), Bruce Vasilas (U of DE, DE)

B. Updates – Hydric Soils Website & Book

What's New, meeting minutes will be added and the newsletter will be dropped. Current Research needs to be updated, and current indicators will be available. The interactive discussion board needs more thought; the set up will be tested out for six months. As per request a West Virginia Professional Soil Scientists link will be added and new affiliations will be added to the introductory paragraph. The current count of visitors to the site totaled 339,000.

Decided to procure 1000 more of the old style binders, but decided against printing any more of the outdated books. The updated version of the book, which will include user notes, new committee members in the intro, missing indicators in the key or a Quick Test, an L section, an updated map, and updated graphics, will be available by January. A general plea for money – Jeff Thompson (MDE, MD) and the EPA might be able to contribute a couple thousand dollars. Each copy is projected to cost around \$6, and \$10,000 will be needed. The legality of printing at Pocahontas Printing and buying at cost will be looked into.

Updated User Notes – R (Steve) needs to be reviewed. S (Lenore) not finished, need to call subgroup and arrange a time to work on it

C. Red Parent Material

Since the indicators don't always fit a study was decided on and it was a committee effort. Four sites MD, NJ, PA, and VA. Ralph sent out twelve wells to be used.

Carl – 3 wells, 2 broke

John – 3 wells, 2 broke

Steve – 3 wells, 2 broke

Marty – 2 working wells

Possible plan of action? Call RDS about the wells. Ralph will call Jeff Thompson to see if they can pull four of the Pautexent wells and send two to Steve.

The committee agreed that a scientific document to be published should be a goal of the study. John Galbraith pointed out that a detailed methods section is needed. Bruce, John, and Marty volunteered to be editors. All data should be in by May 2003 and all are looking for a summer publication.

D. Field Trip

We visited the Crowling's dairy farm. The site was chosen for the red in the substrate. Three open-ended pits with varying amounts of parent material were studied. The committee discovered that there is insufficient knowledge of glauconitic soils, and the iron and sulfide concentrations in the area. The well research is incomplete. There may be two different depositional regions and the problem occurs when the redness manifests throughout the soil, but not uniformly expressed throughout the landscape. Should TF2 be used as a test positive indicator? There is a need for a new indicator because the geology of New York is not uniform.

E. Around The region

Should the wells be used to study the green soil after the completion of this project? If so, there is a need to identify sites and assign wells. Also, the F6 depressional points need clarification.

F. ABLs (Anomalous Bright Loamy Soils)

Hydric soils that occur on coastal plains at low elevations near coastal marshes. The study intends to document the phenomenon and understand the causes. Marty has multiple working hypotheses. Wells are set up two on the Chesapeake side and two on the barrier side. Progress is being made.

G. NTCHS Minutes from May

Discussed reasons to name a soil hydric. Changed the "Field Indicators of Hydric Soils of The US" by adding more pictures, changing F3, distributing GPS, and eliminating the 2 cm muck indicator from R. The Hydric Soil standard went from Official back to Draft, it couldn't be used for site-specific elimination. Reviewed a twelve-page dissertation on changing the definition of prominent and distinct to match the purple guide.

Talked about how great this group is.

H. Hydric Soils Book

Check on status of assigned chapters for the book. ASA style will be used for consistency. Bruce will compile all the chapters and keep everyone on schedule. A detailed outline should be done by August; a draft by the end of September, and the good draft should be done by January. A black and white copy can be published through EPA and a color version could be available for download off the web.

A new cover and a short, descriptive blurb for outside donor proposals are needed. Also, re-number pages by region, or tabbing.

I. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at the University of Delaware on January 9 & 10, 2002. Next year's June meeting (18 & 19, 2002) will be in the Poconos, PA. Thank you to all the planners.

